

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) Magistrate Case No. 07MJ8945  
 )  
Plaintiff, )  
 )  
v. ) FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER OF  
 ) DETENTION  
Javier SOTO-Castro, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

In accordance with § 3142(f) of the Bail Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. § 3141 et seq.), a detention hearing was held on November 29, 2007, to determine whether defendant Javier SOTO-Castro, should be held in custody pending trial on the grounds that he is a flight risk. Assistant U. S. Attorney John F. Weis appeared on behalf of the United States. Diane Regan of Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc., appeared on behalf of the Defendant.

Based on the evidence proffered by the United States and the Defendant, the pretrial services report, and the criminal complaint issued against the November 26, 2007, by this Court, the Court concludes that the following facts establish by a preponderance of the evidence that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the Defendant required.

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## I

FINDINGS OF FACTA. Nature and Circumstances of the Offense Charged (18 U.S.C. §3142(G)(1))

1. The Defendant is charged in Criminal Complaint No. 07MJ8945 with the importation of 11.96 kilograms (26.31 pounds) of methamphetamine into the United States in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 952 and 960. Therefore, probable cause exists to believe the Defendant committed the charged offense.

2. The charged offense is an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.). Thus, there arises a presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the Defendant as required. See 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e).

3. The offense carries with it a minimum mandatory 10 year sentence and a maximum life sentence. See 21 U.S.C. § 960(b)(2)(B). According to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, the Base Offense level is 36, See USSG § 2D1.1(2). Assuming the Defendant's criminal history score places him in Criminal History Category I, see USSG § 4A1.1., the sentencing range for the Defendant is 188-235 months in prison.

B. Weight of the Evidence Against the Defendant (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(2))

1. The weight of the evidence against the Defendant is strong. On November 25, 2007, at the Calexico West Port of Entry, the Defendant was the driver and registered owner of a 2004 Dodge Neon, as he entered the United States from Mexico. Defendant claimed vehicle ownership. Customs & Border Protection Officer Dorantes noticed there was only one key present in the ignition and that Defendant appeared nervous, avoiding eye contact and his hands were shaking. Defendant and the vehicle were referred to the vehicle secondary area for inspection. A Narcotic Detection Dog alerted to the vehicle. Further inspection of the vehicle revealed 11.96 kilograms (26.31 pounds) of methamphetamine concealed within the dashboard area of the vehicle. The Defendant claimed four-month-vehicle ownership. Defendant stated he was coming back from his wife's residence in Mexicali and headed back to his residence in Coachella, California.

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1 C. History and Characteristics of the Defendant (18 U.S.C. § 3142(G)(3)

- 2 1. The Defendant is a citizen of Mexico.
- 3 2. The Defendant resides in Coachella, California with his father.
- 4 3. The Defendant is employed as a security guard in Palm Desert, California.
- 5 4. The Defendant is a Resident Alien of the United States but is in danger of losing
- 6 his immigration status if convicted of this offense.

7 D. Nature and Seriousness of Danger Posed by Release (18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(4)

- 8 1. Other than that the charged crime is a drug trafficking offense, there is nothing
- 9 to suggest that release of the Defendant would pose a danger to any person or the community.

10 II

11 REASONS FOR DETENTION

12 A. There is probable cause to believe that the Defendant committed the offense charged

13 in Criminal Complaint No. 07MJ8945, namely, the importation of 11.96 kilograms (26.31 pounds)

14 methamphetamine into the United States in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 952 and 960.

15 B. The Defendant faces a substantial period of time in custody if convicted of the offense

16 charged in the Complaint. He therefore has a strong motive to flee.

17 C. The Defendant has not rebutted the presumption, based upon the Court's findings that

18 there is probable cause to believe that the Defendant committed an offense for which a maximum term

19 of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. § 801

20 et seq.), that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the

21 Defendant at future court proceedings.

22 III

23 ORDER

24 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Defendant be detained pending trial in this matter.

25 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendant be committed to the custody of the Attorney

26 General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent

27 practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The

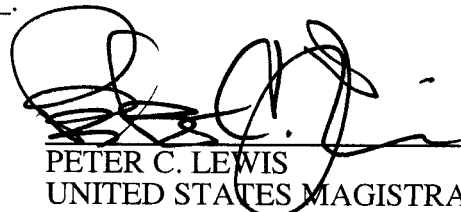
28 Defendant shall be afforded reasonable opportunity for private consultation with counsel.

1 While in custody, upon order of a court of the United States or upon the request of an attorney  
2 for the United States, the person in charge of the correctional facility shall deliver the Defendant to the  
3 United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding or any  
4 other appearance stipulated to by defense and government counsel.

5 THIS ORDER IS ENTERED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

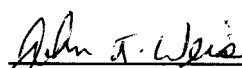
6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 DATED: 12-3-07

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9  
10 PETER C. LEWIS  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

11 Prepared by:

12 KAREN P. HEWITT  
13 United States Attorney

14   
15 John F. Weis  
16 Assistant U. S. Attorney

17 cc: Diana Regan  
18 of Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.  
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